



# Weekly Special Report



Produced by the Public Affairs Section

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## U.S. Special Envoy Graton Expresses Optimism on Sudan

By Jim Fisher-Thompson  
Staff Writer

**Washington** — Despite being “very concerned about rising violence in southern Sudan,” U.S. Special Envoy Scott Graton says he is optimistic about the future for the nation that saw Africa’s longest civil war end five years ago with the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA).

Emphasizing that the U.S. goal in Sudan has always been “to save lives,” Graton told journalists at a January 11 Foreign Press Center briefing in Washington that “peace remains



*U.S. Special Envoy to Sudan Scott Graton.*

incomplete” in Sudan as long as violence and lawlessness still abound in the south and in the Darfur region and 2.7 million displaced people remain homeless.

Graton, who soon will make his 12th official visit to Sudan since President Obama named him special envoy 10 months ago, said, “Roughly 2,500 have been killed in a year [2009] in

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## Clinton Sees U.S. Aid Based on “Partnership, Not Patronage”

By Stephen Kaufman  
Staff Writer

**Washington** — Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton says the United States is elevating development to play a role equal to diplomacy and defense in U.S. foreign policy, and says efforts to end poverty and inequality are indispensable to creating a more stable and democratic world.

The secretary spoke January 6 ( <http://www.america.gov/st/texttrans-english/2010/January/20100106170653eaifas0.9345362.html> ) at the Peterson Institute for International Economics in Washington. She said the Obama administration’s emphasis on development is based on “partnership, not patronage,” with the countries it is seek-

ing to help.

Instead of dictating solutions from afar, the United States will work with countries that “take the lead in designing and implementing evidence-based strategies with clear goals,” Clinton said.

“Development built on consultation rather than decree

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## U.S. Special Envoy Gration Expresses Optimism on Sudan . . .

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southern Sudan.” He said all parties need to work together “to figure out the source of the guns, ammunition and equipment” and reduce them.

Nevertheless, he told journalists in South Africa and at the New York Foreign Press Center via an interactive video feed, “I am optimistic because I’ve seen progress” in Sudan, especially in the implementation of the CPA, which ended the 17-year-long civil war between north and south.

Since 2005, when the CPA was signed, the Khartoum government’s National Congress Party (NCP) and the Sudan Peoples’ Liberation Movement (SPLM), the main rebel movement in the south, “have made significant progress toward peace,” Gration said.

Among the accomplishments he cited were: northern troops pulling out of the south; a cease-fire that has “largely held”; the Government of National Unity, including southerners, formed in Khartoum; a regional government for southern Sudan created in Juba; and the parties reaching agreement on the border of the disputed area of Abeyi.” On the economic front, “Oil wealth has been shared and historical grazing rights honored,” Gration added.

Gration touched on the “thawing of relations” between Chad and Sudan as an example of progress necessary for effective border monitoring needed to ensure

stability and security in Darfur.

The envoy also mentioned former South African President Thabo Mbeki, with whom he said he had been in contact the past 6–8 months and who heads a “high-level panel” working to ensure “accountability and justice,” both important components to the national elections set for April.

The European Union (EU) has also played a very important role in Sudan, Gration said, and “we encourage them to supply 300 election monitors.” He said the United States was also working with the United Kingdom and Norway “for support to ensure the CPA is fully implemented.”

Gains have been made on implementation of the CPA, with the April elections as well as the 2011 self-determination referendum for south Sudan, the envoy said. “I believe the referendum will take place. I believe that right now I see political will, cooperation and continued commitment on both sides to have this take place.”

Though the CPA was facilitated, in part, by the United States, Gration said it was important to keep in mind that peace must be resolved by the Sudanese people themselves. “We have not forced any agreement. We have not forced the parties to make any commitments. What we’ve tried to do is outline the issues, to facilitate and help in any way we can ... to create an environment” for all the parties in Sudan to formulate their own

political solutions.

The week before his press briefing, Gration joined Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton at a State Department ceremony ( <http://www.america.gov/st/texttrans-english/2010/January/20100108163808xjsnommis0.6760675.html> ) commemorating the fifth anniversary of the signing of the CPA.

Clinton drove home the point that the conflict in Darfur and the CPA “must be seen in tandem” and resolved before the CPA expires in July 2011, when a referendum will be held in the south on the question of autonomy.

“The parties of Sudan cannot afford to delay, and there can be no backtracking on agreements already reached. The risks are too serious. Renewed conflict between north and south would prolong human suffering and threaten stability and peace throughout the greater region,” Clinton said.

*(This is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://www.america.gov>) ♦*

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## Clinton Sees U.S. Aid Based on “Partnership, Not Patronage” . . .

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is more likely to engender the local leadership and ownership necessary to turn good ideas into lasting results,” she said.

At the same time, the United States is looking for partners who are demonstrating their own commitment to development by “practicing good governance, rooting out corruption, making their own financial contribution to their own development.”

Along with employing sound economic policies, the Obama administration expects countries rich in natural resources to be “managing those resources sustainably, and devoting some of the profits to people’s development.”

The secretary said the U.S. approach, in programs such as the Millennium Challenge Corporation, “highlights the difference between aid and investment.” The United States will continue to provide aid such as food and medicine around the world, but “we hope one day, far from now, to put ourselves out of the aid business, except for emergencies,” she said.

Instead, through strategic investment, “we seek to break the cycle of dependence that aid can create, by helping countries build their own institutions and their own capacity to deliver essential services,” she said.

The Obama administration is seeking a “safer, more prosperous, more democratic and more equitable world,” the secretary said, and development is “a strategic, economic and moral imperative, as central to advancing American interests and solving global problems as diplomacy and defense.”

One third of humanity lives in conditions that offer little opportunity for improvement for them or their children, she said.



*Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton says she ultimately wants U.S. assistance to break the cycle of dependence.*

At the same time, it is difficult to stop terrorism when hundreds of millions of young people “see a future with no jobs, no hope and no way ever to catch up to the developed world.”

Many have found themselves “on the wrong side of globalization, cut off from markets and out of reach of modern technologies,” and it is difficult to help advance human rights “when hunger and poverty threaten to undermine the good governance and rule of law needed to make those rights real,” Clinton said.

The secretary said U.S. development assistance around the world will now be measured by what is achieved, rather than what is spent. She added that accumulated development experience and technology innovations have made the 21st century an era to do development “better than it’s ever been done before, and to do it for more people, in more places.”

Along with investments in areas such as

health, agriculture, security, education, energy and local governance, Secretary Clinton said, the United States will also be designing development programs specifically to help women and girls, who she said are “one of the world’s greatest untapped resources.”

Studies have shown that the children of a woman who has even one year of education will be less likely to die young or from hunger and more likely to go to school themselves, she said.

“Investing in the potential of women to lift and lead their societies is one of the best investments we can make,” Clinton said.

*(This is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://www.america.gov>) ♦*

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## United States, Allies Exploring Further Sanctions Against Iran

**By Merle David Kellerhals Jr.**  
**Staff Writer**

**Washington** — The United States believes that the most effective way to convince Iran to abandon nuclear weapons efforts is to impose highly targeted sanctions against the Iranian leadership's political and commercial base.

Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton told reporters January 11 who were accompanying her on a 10-day trip to the Asia-Pacific region that the six nations actively engaged in talks tentatively are set to meet about January 16 in New York to explore the kind and degree of sanctions that will best suit the emerging situation.

The six nations include the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council — China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States — plus Germany, which are known as the P5+1 group. Their primary objective has been to convince Iran to halt its uranium enrichment program, which is considered by weapons experts to be an essential preliminary step in the development of a nuclear weapon. Western nations believe that if Iran were to develop even a limited nuclear weapons capability, it would have far-reaching security concerns for the Gulf and the greater Middle East, especially if it is accompanied by the development of a medium- to long-range missile.

"It is clear that there is a relatively small group of decisionmakers inside Iran. They are in both political and commercial relationships, and if we can create a sanctions track that targets those who actually make the decisions, we think that is a smarter way to do sanctions," Clinton told reporters on a flight to Hawaii, according to published news reports.

Clinton left Washington January 11 on a 10-day trip scheduled to take her to Australia, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea with a stop in Hawaii. In Honolulu, Clinton will meet with Japanese Foreign Minister Katsuya Okada and make a major policy speech on U.S. engagement in the Asia-Pacific region.

State Department spokesman P.J. Crowley told reporters at a daily briefing January 11 that Under Secretary of State William Burns is traveling to Moscow and to Madrid this week for talks with the six nations as well as talks with members of the European Union.

"There may well be a P5+1 meeting coming up in the very near future. ... It could be part of this trip," Crowley added.

Diplomatic engagement has been a central tenet of President Obama in his approach to Iran, and Clinton has said repeatedly that every effort is being made to keep talks going.

"We want to keep the door to dialogue open," Clinton said recently ( <http://www.america.gov/st/texttrans-english/2010/January/20100104161440ptellivremos0.3525659.html> ), though adding that "we can't continue to wait and we cannot continue to stand by."

Clinton told reporters that the United States has been evaluating ideas from a broad range of other countries — identifying what works, what won't work, and what would have the most impact on changing the strategic calculation inside Iran's leadership.

The United States is backing a proposal offered by the U.N. International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to ship low-grade nuclear fuel abroad for further enrichment and return for use in a Tehran

medical research reactor. Clinton said this approach offers the best way to handle the needs of Iran and to build confidence that its efforts are not aimed at building a nuclear weapon.

### SANCTIONS IMPOSED

Since 2006, the U.N. Security Council has imposed three sets of sanctions that are still in effect. The first set concerns sensitive nuclear materials and froze the assets of individual Iranians and some companies. The second set included new arms and financial sanctions, and the third set added further travel and financial sanctions.

The United States shut out Iran's Bank Saderat from the U.S. financial system in September 2006. It did the same thing to Bank Melli and Bank Mellat in October 2007. The United States has also sanctioned Iran's Revolutionary Guard, which controls the nuclear development program. And the U.S. Congress is considering legislation that would require more and deeper sanctions.

The European Union has imposed visa bans on senior Iranian officials and its top nuclear and ballistics experts. Britain froze more than \$1.6 billion in Iranian assets under EU- and U.N.-imposed sanctions. Britain has also frozen business ties with Bank Mellat and the Islamic Republic of Iran Shipping Lines.

*(This is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://www.america.gov>) ♦*



# Clinton's Asia-Pacific Trip Will Focus on Security Issues

By Merle David Kellerhals Jr.  
Staff Writer

**Washington** — During a stop in Hawaii that is part of a broader trip to the Asia-Pacific region, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton is expected to discuss with Japanese Foreign Minister Katsuya Okada the future of a U.S. military base on the island of Okinawa, along with other pressing regional security issues, says Assistant Secretary of State Kurt Campbell.

"I would expect this to be a very deep and extensive interaction," Campbell said during a pre-trip briefing with reporters at the Washington Foreign Press Center January 7. "We will talk about the security alliance. We will talk about Okinawa and Futenma [Marine Corps Air Station]."

Campbell, who is the assistant secretary for East Asian and Pacific affairs, said the talks will include new developments on the Korean Peninsula and North Korea, recent engagement with China, Iran's nuclear weapons development program, Burma and related security issues.

Clinton is traveling in the Asia-Pacific region January 12–19. Her trip will include a visit to Hawaii, where she will make a major address on U.S. policies for the Asia-Pacific region; Papua New Guinea, to discuss issues affecting Pacific island nations; and Australia and New Zealand, where she will be joined by Defense Secretary Robert Gates to discuss specific security issues. Australia and New Zealand have contributed military forces to operations in Afghanistan.

## MARINE BASE RELOCATION

The United States and Japan have agreed

to set up a high-level working group to focus on implementation of a 2006 agreement to relocate the U.S. Marine Air Station at Futenma on Okinawa. The air crews and aircraft would be relocated



*Japan is helping the United States move a Marine air station on Okinawa from a populous area to an area with fewer residents.*

to expanded facilities at Camp Schwab, which is near Nago, a less populous area on Okinawa.

The Marine air station and most U.S. military facilities in Japan were established under the 1960 U.S.-Japan Status of Forces Agreement. The Okinawa facilities account for approximately 65 percent of U.S. forces currently in Japan.

In addition to the air station agreement, the United States has agreed to move the Third Marine Expeditionary Force, which includes 8,000 Marines and their families, from Futenma to expanded facilities on Guam. Under the terms of the agreement, Japan agreed to pay \$6.09 billion of the estimated \$10.27 billion in costs associated with the move, accord-

ing to a U.S. Congressional Research Service report on U.S.-Japanese relations.

Campbell said Clinton and Okada will focus on what has been accomplished over the past 50 years in the joint security alliance, and also on where the alliance is going.

"This alliance for the United States and ... for Japan is indispensable, and we need to work closely to sustain its health and vitality moving forward," he said. The 50th anniversary of the U.S.-Japan Security Alliance is January 19.

## MULTILATERAL ENGAGEMENT

Clinton will speak at the East-West Center in Honolulu January 12 on Asia-Pacific multilateral engagement with the United States.

"We've been working for a considerable period of time and involved for months in a deep process of consultations with our allies and friends in the Asian-Pacific region," Campbell said. "I think we've come to the conclusion that it's appropriate for the United States to step up

and play a more active role in some of the institutional thinking and engagement in the region."

The process over the next couple of months, he added, is to deepen consultations and expand multilateral relations.

While in Honolulu, Clinton also will meet with officials of the U.S. Pacific Command to discuss regional security issues.

During the Australian and New Zealand portion of her trip, Clinton — along with Gates — will participate in the 25th Australia-New Zealand Ministerial Consultations to discuss global and regional security challenges, State Department

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## Increased Efforts for Mideast Peace in 2010, Clinton Says

By Stephen Kaufman  
Staff Writer

**Washington** — Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton calls for “good faith negotiations” to be re-launched between Israel and the Palestinians to end their decades-long conflict based on the 1967 borders and mutually agreed land swaps, and says 2010 will be a “year of renewed commitment and increased effort” to reach that goal.

In remarks following a meeting with Jordan’s minister of foreign affairs, Nasser Judeh, Clinton said the Obama administration is “absolutely committed” to working with all partners for a two-state solution.

That outcome “would rebuke the terrorists and the naysayers,” give the Palestinian people “a legitimate state for their own aspirations,” and give the Israelis “the security they deserve to have,” she said.

“This negotiation is clearly about issues that most directly affect the Israelis and the Palestinians, but it is of great matter not just to the people of the region, not just to the Arab nations, but really to the entire world,” she said. “There is a hunger for a resolution of this matter.”

The elements of a final resolution are already known, she said, and involve recognized borders and security for both parties, and agreements on water rights, Palestinian refugees and the status of Jerusalem.

She said the United States and Jordan share concern over Jerusalem, which has seen recent Israeli building activities.



*Secretary Clinton, right, and Jordanian Foreign Minister Judeh say their two nations share a common struggle against violent extremism.*

“The United States recognizes that Jerusalem is a deeply important issue for Israelis and Palestinians, for Jews, Muslims and Christians around the world. And we believe that it is possible to realize the aspirations of both Israelis and Palestinians for Jerusalem, and safeguard its status as a symbol of the three great religions for all people,” Clinton said.

Resolving borders and the question of Jerusalem will also resolve the issue of Israeli settlements. “I think we need to lift our sights. And instead of ... looking down at the trees, we need to look at the forest,” she said.

The secretary also said the United States and Jordan share a common struggle against violent extremists, recalling the 2005 bombing of hotels in Amman. “This is a struggle that unites people of faith, people of peace, people of conscience everywhere,” she said.

Foreign Minister Judeh said the United States, Jordan and “other like-minded countries” are “fully on board” in cooperation against terrorism.

As a target of extremist violence, Jordan has had to be “extremely effective in our pursuit of those who want to do harm to our country and to our citizens,” he said. But he described Jordan’s commitment and ongoing operations to respond to and prevent extremist attacks as humanitarian work “because in our pursuit of terrorists, we’re saving humanity.”

*(This is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://www.america.gov>) ♦*

## Diplomats Call for Greater Effort to Implement Sudan Peace Accord

By Merle David Kellerhals Jr.  
Staff Writer

**Washington** — Time is growing short before Sudanese national elections in April and everyone involved must intensify efforts to implement the remaining provisions of a 5-year-old peace agreement to end the violence and suffering of the people of Sudan, three senior foreign ministers said in a joint statement January 8.

"High levels of violence and displacement in south Sudan in 2009 and continued violence against civilians, widespread insecurity and humanitarian concerns in Darfur show that much more work is needed to bring the peace and stability the Sudanese people deserve," said Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, Norwegian Foreign Minister Jonas Gahr Støre, and British Foreign Minister David Miliband.

Clinton unveiled a "comprehensive" U.S. policy toward resolving the conflicts in Sudan October 19, 2009, that focused on ending human rights abuses and genocide in Darfur in western Sudan and fully implementing the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) between the government and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) in the south. January 9 marks the fifth anniversary of the peace agreement.

"The conduct of credible elections is vital to the process of democratic transformation, a cornerstone of the CPA," the three foreign ministers said. "The parties must also begin discussions and negotiations on long-term issues that will arise irrespective of the referendum outcome

— oil revenue-sharing, security arrangements, citizenship issues and many others."

Clinton, Miliband and Støre acknowledged that considerable progress has been made toward implementing the agreement, but they called on all parties in Sudan to work intensely over the final year to address the remaining challenges.

"Ultimately, issues concerning Sudan's future must be resolved by the Sudanese themselves," the three officials said in their joint statement. "We pledge our governments' active commitment to sup-

port efforts for peace and stability in Sudan."

Clinton said separately January 8 that the National Congress Party and the SPLM must be willing to reach compromises and commitments that are needed to build confidence and achieve stability so that there can be a lasting peace.

"The parties of Sudan cannot afford to delay and there can be no backtracking on agreements already reached," Clinton said. "The risks are too serious: Renewed conflict between North and South would prolong human suffering and threaten stability and peace throughout the greater region."

U.S. Special Envoy to Sudan Scott Gration told reporters at a briefing January 8 at the State Department that he will be traveling to the region at the end of January, going to Kenya and Uganda and attending the African Union Summit, and will be back in Sudan by the middle of February.

"There's a lot of issues that we're working hard, but it

makes sense for me to go back in February," Gration said. "The one thing [Sudanese officials] must remember is that these are the first elections that have been held since 1986. So we have a gap of almost 24 years since we've had this kind of transformation that we're seeing right now."

He said the national elections this year and the independence referendum for Southern Sudan in January 2011 are an

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*Residents of Kapoeta, Eastern Equatoria, do a traditional peace dance at a rally where the peace agreement text was distributed.*



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## Diplomats Call for Greater Effort to Implement Sudan Peace Accord . . .

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opportunity for the people of Sudan to determine their future. Nearly 79 percent of eligible voters have registered to vote in the elections, he said.

"We believe that the election gives us an opportunity to practice those elements that will be so important in the referendum," Gration said.

The situation in Sudan has emerged as one of the largest and most devastating humanitarian crises of the 21st century. More than 20 years of fighting between the government and the SPLM killed more than 2 million people, and key portions of the 2005 CPA remain unfulfilled and represent "a dangerous flashpoint" for future armed conflict, Clinton said in October. In addition, Sudan's ruling National Congress Party (NCP) and government-supported militia launched a genocidal campaign in 2003 against ethnic groups affiliated with a potential rebellion in Darfur, killing hundreds of thousands, displacing 2.7 million people and creating more than 250,000 refugees. Sudan's current president, Omar al-Bashir, has been indicted by the International Criminal Court for his alleged role in the Darfur genocide.

Gration said the United States' strategy for Sudan has three major goals: ending the genocide in Darfur, fully implementing the CPA so it results in a peaceful Sudan, and preventing Sudan from becoming a terrorist safe haven.

"Failure to accomplish these goals could bring about additional suffering, further regional instability or new safe havens for international terrorists," Gration said in congressional testimony December 3.

Gration said the United States continues to work closely with the African Union and the United Nations, meeting frequently with envoys from Britain, China,

France and Russia (who are permanent members of the U.N. Security Council along with the United States) and the European Union to coordinate efforts. He said they met most recently in Moscow and in Abuja, Nigeria, to coordinate positions on fulfilling the Doha Peace Process on Darfur.

As a result of efforts to make the peace process work, eight former rebel factions have formed a coalition and are committed to having a wider unification, he added.

Throughout the peace process, the United States will continue to support and strengthen the African Union–United Nations Mission in Darfur (UNAMID), Gration said. That means, he added, holding those who obstruct UNAMID's work accountable and providing direct financial and logistical support for UNAMID's full deployment. UNAMID is planning contingencies for potential worsening of the crises in Darfur, he said.

### PEACE AGREEMENT

The United States and the international community are focusing on a comprehensive approach to peace in Sudan, and that requires full implementation of the CPA. In Khartoum, the two parties to the CPA — the National Congress Party and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement — continue their discussions to resolve key outstanding issues relating to the national elections in April and the January 2011 referendum in southern Sudan and Abyei.

The Comprehensive Peace Agreement, which is sometimes called the Naivasha Agreement for the place where it was signed, set a series of agreements between the SPLM and the Sudanese government. It was intended to end a two-decade-old civil war between the North and the South, help establish a democratic government and provide for sharing

oil revenues. It also set a timetable for southern Sudan to hold a referendum on its independence. The current coalition government ends in 18 months with the southern referendum.

Gration said the two most pressing issues are the use of contested census results for voter registration in the upcoming elections, and disagreements on procedures for the referendum on self-determination for southern Sudan.

See the White House statement on the anniversary of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement ( <http://www.america.gov/st/texttrans-english/2010/January/20100108164310eafas0.6471369.html> ).

*(This is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://www.america.gov>) ♦*

### Clinton's Asia-Pacific Trip Will Focus on Security . . .

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spokesman Ian Kelly said January 6.

The U.S. officials will meet January 17–19 with Australian Foreign Minister Stephen Smith and Australian Defense Minister John Faulkner in Australia's capital, Canberra.

Clinton's Pacific trip will also include a stop in Papua New Guinea on January 14, where she will meet with officials as well as with local civil society leaders to discuss environmental protection and women's empowerment.

"She will have an opportunity to view some projects that are involved with sustaining one of the most diverse biological habitats on the planet," Campbell said. ♦



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## United States Welcomes Plan for Transition Government in Guinea

By Stephen Kaufman  
Staff Writer

**Washington** — The Obama administration welcomes plans by the ruling military junta in Guinea to form a transition government and pledged to work with Guinea to restore democratic and civilian rule to the country.

Assistant Secretary of State P.J. Crowley told reporters January 7 that the United States commends Guinea's interim leader, General Sékouba Konaté, for announcing "immediate plans to form a transition government in Guinea."

"We welcome this new beginning and are pleased to see advance toward civilian rule," Crowley said.

Konaté announced in Conakry on January 6 that he would ask the opposition to choose a prime minister who would lead a transition government. Press reports added that Konaté said separately that he expects the transitional government to announce the date for new elections soon after it is formed.

"The United States and our partners within the International Contact Group [on Guinea] look forward to supporting Guinea through this transition process," Crowley said, adding that the Obama administration "will work closely with Guinea to see implementation of what they have agreed to do to move toward civilian rule."



Captain  
Dadis

*Guinea has been under military rule since the December 2008 overthrow of President Lansana Conté.*

The Obama administration has been critical of Guinea's military rulers, especially after troops raped and killed peaceful protesters in a Conakry stadium on September 28, 2009. In response to the country's lack of democratic progress, Guinea's benefits under the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) were suspended in December 2009 ( <http://www.america.gov/st/democracyhr-english/2009/December/20091224121856esnamfuak0.6293299.html?CP.rss=true> ).

Camara, who heads the junta, was shot in a December 2009 assassination attempt by members of Guinea's presidential guard and is recovering in a Moroccan hospital.

*(This is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://www.america.gov>) ♦*

## New USAID Chief Sees U.S. Forging Deeper Partnerships Overseas

By William Ide  
VOA News

The U.S. Agency for International Development has sworn in a new administrator, Dr. Rajiv Shah, at a ceremony January 7 in Washington. In an exclusive interview with Voice of America, Shah talked about the Obama administration's plans to deepen its partnerships overseas and listen more to the countries the agency serves.

A 36-year-old medical doctor by training, Shah comes to USAID with expertise in agriculture. He previously served as the director of agricultural development with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and later in a top post at the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

But, he says, the mission of USAID is his passion.

As a son of Indian immigrants, Shah says that he started visiting India and other parts of the world at a young age and saw firsthand the kind of extreme conditions of poverty and human suffering that exist across the globe. "The opportunity to join an agency that has as its core mission working on that problem, working in a way that it's respectful of the people who live in those environments and learns from them, is a great, great honor," he said.

As head of USAID, Shah says he plans to hire several hundred new development experts and individuals with technical expertise to expand the agency's work capacity.

He says that some changes will be necessary and that he will seek to establish deeper relationships with the countries the agency serves. He says Washington will listen more and make sure that the countries it works with have the political commitment to move forward with development plans, programs and activities. "Really, the long-term, sustainable, large-scale transformation of a society that represents the success of global development can only happen if those

But, he also says measures will be in place to make sure that money is used wisely. "As we, and if we, give up control to some extent in order to support country leadership, we should have high standards and we should have strong ability to track outcomes to monitor resources and how they flow and to ensure that we're generating real results in a sustainable way for American taxpayers," he said.



*State of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, left, administers the oath of office to U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) Administrator Rajiv Shah, Thursday, Jan. 7, 2010, during a ceremony in Washington. From left are, Clinton, Shah's wife Shivam Mallick, holding daughter Amna Shah, and son Sajjan Shah. (AP Photo/Alex Brandon)*

USAID currently provides \$20 billion in annual aid to development projects around the world. The Obama administration plans to expand that to \$50 billion a year by 2012 for healthcare, education and agriculture.

Shah says while USAID will be helping countries around the world, its immediate priorities include regions of extremism such as Afghanistan and Yemen.

This report was provided by VOA News ( <http://www.voanews.com/> ).

countries are completely committed to and vested in that vision of success," he said.

President Obama and Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton plan to devote more funding to development, which they see as an integral part of U.S. foreign policy.

Shah says the U.S. government now wants to give foreign countries more control over how American aid is spent.

*(This is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://www.america.gov>) ♦*

## U.S. Agriculture Secretary Announces \$20 Million for Afghanistan

**Washington** — Recognizing the urgent need to create jobs in Afghanistan's agricultural sector to boost food production and draw insurgents off the battlefield, the United States announced January 12 a \$20 million plan to support Afghanistan's agricultural economy.

"After decades of conflict, Afghanistan lacks many of the personnel and knowledge resources needed to deliver much-needed services to its people, more than 80 percent of whom rely on agriculture for wages and sustenance. Today's commitment with [Afghanistan's Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock] will help Afghanistan's government build critical capacity at the local level in agricultural extension and expertise," U.S. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack said in Kabul, Afghanistan.

"The United States recognizes the importance of Afghanistan's agricultural economy in creating jobs, helping the nation achieve food self-sufficiency, and drawing insurgents off of the battlefield," Vilsack said.

Vilsack met with Asif Rahimi, Afghanistan's minister of agriculture, irrigation and livestock, to advise him of the availability of up to \$20 million in funding from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) if the Afghan agency establishes reconstruction goals aimed at boosting agricultural productivity, rebuilding agribusiness, improving irrigation, creating jobs and enhancing technologies. The funding, Vilsack said, is not guaranteed, and the ministry must continue to demonstrate its commitment to transparency.

"USDA experts will partner with Afghan ministry experts, local officials and entrepreneurs — partnerships critical to success," U.S. Ambassador Karl Eikenberry said. "We will also ensure that our efforts are aligned with the National Agricultural Development Framework outlined by Minister Rahimi, and also with Afghanistan's National Development Strategy."

civilian technical experts deployed to Afghanistan, including more than 50 USDA agricultural experts.

Since 2003, USDA has deployed 94 people for medium- and long-term assignments in Afghanistan and provided roughly \$229 million in food aid to the country. Agricultural experts work with

Afghans through a variety of activities meant to strengthen the capacity of the Afghan government, rebuild agricultural markets and improve management of natural resources. USDA projects have included installing windmills to pump water for irrigation and livestock, training veterinarians to detect and treat parasites, rehabilitating a university's agricultural research laboratory, stabilizing eroded river banks and irrigation canals, developing crop storage facilities, rehabilitating degraded orchards, mentoring provincial directors of agriculture to help them improve

their services to farmers, and reforestation, according to the Agriculture Department.

USDA also manages programs that train Afghan agricultural officials and professionals in the United States. USDA-led programs such as the Cochran Fellowship Program, the Norman E. Borlaug International Agricultural Science and Technology Fellows Program, and the Faculty Exchange Program have brought 50 Afghans to the United States since 2004 for specialized training lasting from two weeks to five months. These public- and

*(Continued on page 13)*



*U.S. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack (R) and Afghanistan's Agriculture Minister Mohammad Asif Rahimi (L) accept a gift of a box of apples from an apple farmer in Kabul January 10, 2010. Vilsack visited Afghanistan for three days to find ways to rebuild the country's agriculture sector and switch farmers away from opium poppies to higher value crops such as apples and grapes. REUTERS/Sue Fleming.*

While in Afghanistan, Vilsack traveled to Helmand province, in which more than half of the country's poppy crop is grown, to discuss efforts to educate and assist farmers in the province. In the last year, efforts have helped farmers move 33 percent of the province's hectares from poppy cultivation to legal crops.

In December 2009, President Obama outlined his strategy to disrupt, dismantle and eventually defeat al-Qaida and prevent its return to either Afghanistan or Pakistan. Along with an infusion of troops was an increase in the number of



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## Freedoms of Religion and Speech Are Indivisible, Interdependent

**By Tad Stahnke, Director of Policy and Programs  
Human Rights First**

Freedom of religion or belief cannot be ensured without the vigorous protection of free speech. The two freedoms are indivisible and interdependent, and protect core aspects of the identity of both individuals and communities. Their equal protection promotes the debate and dissent that are essential to healthy societies, protects against discrimination, and helps unleash the potential of all individuals to participate in political, social and economic life. Laws that restrict speech in the name of protecting a religion, an ideology or a political system not only inherently impinge upon rights to free expression and chill the exercise of that right, all too often they also restrict the exercise of religious freedom, especially for minority groups.

It is true that offensive and hateful speech targeting members of religious communities (as well as racial, ethnic and sexual minorities) does exist in many countries around the globe, including in democratic ones such as the United States. And where there is a climate of hatred and intolerance, there is all too often discrimination and violence. These problems must be confronted, and there are many effective steps that governments should take — but often don't. These steps need not and should not involve restrictions on free speech.

All governments can do more to respond to bias-motivated violence, such as working with affected communities to investigate and prosecute those responsible for such violence and ensuring that police and prosecutors have the tools and the training to deal with the problem. Laws and policies to combat discrimination should be adopted and enforced, and adequate support and resources must be given to the necessary judicial and other institutions.



*Human rights expert Tad Stahnke says freedom of religion cannot be ensured without the vigorous protection of free speech.*

In addition, responses to other acts and expressions of hatred and intolerance — responses that do not involve restrictions on speech — should be identified and promoted. The rich experience of civil society groups in the United States — working together across racial, ethnic and religious lines, as well as with law enforcement and political leaders at all levels of government — provides many examples of best practices. Government officials and political leaders should be pressed to speak out more often and more forcefully to condemn acts and expressions of hatred and intolerance, particularly when committed by other public officials or in state-controlled media.

Indeed, more speech is what is necessary to combat bigotry, intolerance, discrimination and violence. Only with strong protections for free expression can we help create an atmosphere of respect and peace among communities, cultures and religions. International efforts to

develop rules to prohibit expression in the name of protecting religion undermine these essential goals.

Tad Stahnke joined Human Rights First in January 2008 as director of the Fighting Discrimination program, and currently serves as director of policy and programs. Prior to joining Human Rights First, Stahnke worked at the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom, where he served as deputy executive director for policy as well as acting executive director. Stahnke has also served as an expert in international human rights law in training U.S. government officials.

Stahnke has authored and coauthored numerous scholarly publications, including “Religion-State Issues and the Right to Freedom of Religion or Belief: A Comparative Textual Analysis of the Constitutions of Predominantly Muslim States,” “Religious Diversity in the European Union: an International Human Rights Perspective,” “The Right to Engage in Religious Persuasion” and “Religion and Human Rights: Basic Documents.”

Stahnke has worked as a research fellow and lecturer at Columbia Law School and as an associate at Cleary, Gottlieb, Steen & Hamilton in New York. He holds a law degree from Columbia Law School, a master's in urban planning from New York University's Wagner School of Public Service, and a bachelor of arts degree in metropolitan studies from NYU. Stahnke was also a law clerk to Judge Wilfred Feinberg of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 2nd Circuit.

The opinions expressed in this article do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the U.S. government.

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## Hate Speech Can Be Countered with Truth, Leadership

By Salam Al-Marayati, Executive Director

Muslim Public Affairs Council

The Quran encourages Muslims to promote religious freedom and counter religious bigotry. However, it also upholds the importance of the freedom to express one's own thoughts, even when they may be seen as distasteful or disrespectful by others. The Quran documents the countless attempts to defame the Prophet as a "madman," "magician" and as one who spreads discord. The Quran also chronicles accusations that it is not part of the divine messages and actually challenges its accusers with producing verses that are better in style and substance.

The Prophet tolerated defamation against himself, and the Quran responded to defamation with a challenge. In neither case was free speech curtailed.

Countering religious persecution in Islam is a mandate, according to the Quran: "And how could you refuse to fight in the cause of God and of the utterly helpless men and women and children who are crying, 'O our Sustainer! Lead us forth [to freedom] out of this land whose people are oppressors, and raise for us, out of Thy grace, a protector, and raise for us, out of Thy grace, one who will bring us succor!'" (4:75). Indeed, the biblical prophets were on a mission to deliver a message to believe in One God and to deliver people from darkness to light. Hence, religious freedom and human rights are indistinguishable.

At the same time, the Quran calls for freedom of religion and expression: "Let there be no compulsion in matters of faith." (2:256) It calls for the free marketplace of ideas, especially when dealing with Christians and Jews (People of the Book): "And do not argue with the People of the Book unless it be in a way that is better, save with such of them as do



*Salam Al-Marayati says the Quran encourages Muslims to promote religious freedom and counter religious bigotry.*

wrong. But say, 'We believe in the Revelation which has come down to us and in that which came down to you. Our God and your God is One; and it is to Him we submit (in Islam).'" (29:46)

In Islamic law, there are five permanent goals agreed upon by all jurists to secure the rights of all people: they are the rights to life, expression, faith, family and property. Hence, neither freedom of expression nor freedom of faith can be compromised.

Countering anti-Muslim rhetoric, like opposing anti-Semitism, is a noble cause. But there's a fine line between hate speech and hate crimes. We need to ensure that any legislation dealing with religious freedom does not curtail free speech. If certain speech incites violence, then legislation should be based on the crime and not the speech.

Therefore, Islamic teachings direct humanity to protect both religious freedom and free speech. The only means to effectively oppose bigotry and intolerance

is through social, political and cultural programs educating people about the truth. We cannot impose the truth on others but we can be examples of what the truth manifests. That requires leadership in all sectors of society. Without leadership, we are left with two bad options — ignoring religious persecution or curtailing free speech.

Salam Al-Marayati is the executive director and one of the founders of the Muslim Public Affairs Council (MPAC), a public service, nonprofit, nonpartisan agency that disseminates accurate information about Islam and Muslims to the media and to elected officials. For 20 years, he has worked tirelessly to promote harmony between Muslims and their fellow Americans through interfaith dialogue and working in concert with local and national officials. Al-Marayati has made countless appearances in major national media outlets to discuss issues pertinent to Americans and American Muslims.

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### U.S. Agriculture Secretary Announces \$20 million . . .

*(Continued from page 11)* private-sector policymakers, scientists and academics have upgraded their technical skills in a wide range of topics and then shared this knowledge with their students and colleagues in Afghanistan, according to the Agriculture Department.

*(Distributed by the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://www.america.gov>) ♦*

# Story of 27th Amendment Shows Individual's Power in a Democracy

By Jianan Wang  
Staff Writer

Jianan Wang blogs about life in the United States on the Chinese-language blog "Wild Geese from Foggy Bottom" (<http://blogs.america.gov/mgck/>)." The following article has been adapted from one of his entries.

**Washington** — Even in a country as large as the United States, one determined citizen can bring about change, even with a proposal that collected dust for nearly two centuries.

In the early days of the United States, the 1st Congress passed 12 proposed amendments to the U.S. Constitution but only 10 — later known as the Bill of Rights — were ratified by the states and became law, in 1791. One of the two amendments that failed in the 18th century to be ratified by the necessary three-fourths of the states eventually became the 27th Amendment through the efforts of an ordinary citizen 202 years later.

The amendment, which states "No law, varying the compensation for the services of the Senators and Representatives, shall take effect, until an election of Representatives shall have intervened," is intended to serve as a restraint on the power of Congress to set its own salary — a power that has obvious potential for conflict of interest.

Early congresses showed almost no signs of acting as corrupt interest groups, so there was little incentive to revive the failed amendment. But in 1873, the 47th Congress passed an amendment to the general appropriations bill to double the annual salary of the president from \$25,000 to \$50,000 and increase its members' salary by 50 percent, from \$5,000 to \$7,500 per year. The amendment made the increase retroactive to 1871 for congressional members, giving

them two years of back pay. The great "Salary Grab," as it was known, produced widespread public outrage and prompted Ohio to ratify the sleeping constitutional amendment on congressional compensation. Months later, Congress repealed the provision in an 1873 law that increased its members' pay.

During the next 100 years, as the United States rose to become one of the world's superpowers, congressional salaries kept

That sharp contrast led some U.S. citizens to begin a movement to revive the dormant congressional-compensation amendment. In 1978, the Wyoming Legislature ratified it.

## ONE CONCERNED CITIZEN

In 1982, Gregory D. Watson, a college sophomore at the University of Texas, Austin, while researching the passed — but not ratified — Equal Rights Amend-



*The Constitution, enshrined in the National Archives in Washington, is the foundation of U.S. law and deliberately difficult to amend.*

pace with inflation and average wages in the country. But in the 1970s, the oil embargo of 1973 quadrupled oil prices and the U.S. gross domestic product (GDP) dropped 4.5 percent. Then, the 1979 Iran hostage crisis triggered another round of energy shortages, and four subsequent recessions (1970, 1973–75, 1980 and 1981–82) led to widespread unemployment and frozen wages in many occupations. Yet, during roughly the same period, annual salaries for those serving in Congress tripled, from \$44,600 to \$125,100, compared to a 7 percent increase in the median U.S. wage during the same period.

ment (ERA) of the 1970s for his term paper, found the unratified 1789 congressional-compensation amendment and decided to change his paper's topic. He argued that because the 1789 amendment had no time limit, states could still ratify it and the amendment could become law. Watson's government professor was unimpressed and gave the paper a "C" grade, but Watson remained intrigued by his discovery.

At that time seven states had ratified the amendment, so Watson needed 31 more to achieve 38, or three-quarters of the 50

*(Continued on page 17)*

## When Global Temperature Rises by 2 Degrees Celsius

*From the America.gov Adaptation! ( <http://blogs.america.gov/climate/> ) blog: The Copenhagen Accord and several international declarations have stated that global average temperature rise should be limited to 2 degrees Celsius or less. But what does that really mean for people across the globe and other life forms?*

By Cheryl Pellerin  
Science Writer

The figure at left, from the 2007 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report, shows how rising temperatures affect water, ecosystems, food, coastlines and health.

### MEASURABLE EFFECTS TODAY

First, it's important to note that climate change is already having an impact on temperature and sea level. In the 20th century, average global temperature rose by 0.74 degrees C (1.3 degrees F) and sea level, because warming water causes water to expand, rose by 17 centimeters (6.7 inches).

Climate change is also causing an increase in the frequency, intensity and duration of floods, droughts and heat waves and a related increase in human illness and death. Globally, the area affected by drought has increased since the 1970s.

Precipitation has increased significantly in eastern parts of North and South America, northern Europe and central Asia and declined in the Sahel, the Mediterranean, southern Africa and parts of south Asia. Hundreds of millions of people now face increased water stress such as damage from floods and storms.

### IF TEMPERATURES RISE BY 2 DEGREES C

According to the IPCC, if global average temperature rises by 2 degrees C (3.6 degrees F), rising sea levels and melting snow and ice across the globe could submerge several small island states and

Bangladesh. The Maldives islands, with land surface barely a meter or two above sea level, will suffer major danger to life and property with every storm surge and major upwelling of the seas.

Up to 30 percent of species will be at increasing risk of extinction. Most corals will be bleached. Millions more people

-english/2009/Novem-ber/20091112152253lcnirellep0.7552759.html ) and adaptation ( <http://www.america.gov/st/energy-english/2009/August/20090828131104lcnirellep0.1748773.html> ) efforts, the trade-offs ( [!\[\]\(0d5ec72f61334709c3fc9450209b754f\_img.jpg\)](http://</a></p></div><div data-bbox=)

*The storm surge on a Louisiana highway shows one effect of rising sea levels.*

could experience coastal flooding each year. Some kinds of food productivity will decrease in low latitudes and rise in mid to high latitudes. Ecosystems will change. Growing numbers of people in the poorest countries will suffer from malnutrition and from diarrheal, cardio-respiratory and infectious diseases.

The Copenhagen Accord proposes to assess by 2015 how countries are keeping the global temperature rise below 2 degrees C. At that time, nations could consider changing the temperature-rise goal to 1.5 degrees C (2.7 degrees F).

Read more about international mitigation ( <http://www.america.gov/st/energy>

[www.america.gov/st/energy-english/2009/December/20091217092133AClehcieR0.5745661.html](http://www.america.gov/st/energy-english/2009/December/20091217092133AClehcieR0.5745661.html) ) necessary to keeping global temperature at 2 degrees C or below, and the reasons ( <http://www.america.gov/st/energy-english/2009/April/20090416163105lcnirellep0.843487.html> ) there will be some rise in temperature no matter what nations do today to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Learn more and share your thoughts ( <http://www.facebook.com/ConversationsClimate> ).♦



# Officials Urge Vaccination Against Possible Waves of H1N1 Flu

By Cheryl Pellerin  
Science Writer

**Washington** - The United States has declared January 10–16 National Influenza Vaccination Week to urge more people to get vaccinated against H1N1 pandemic flu, and Mongolia and Azerbaijan have become the first of 95 low- and middle-income nations targeted to receive donated pandemic vaccine from the World Health Organization (WHO).

As of January 3, more than 208 countries and territories or communities have reported laboratory-confirmed cases of H1N1, along with at least 12,799 deaths. The most active areas of pandemic flu transmission are in parts of central, eastern and south-eastern Europe, North Africa and South Asia.

“Expectant mothers, children, young adults and all those under the age of 65 with chronic health conditions are at high risk for H1N1 flu-related complications and should get the vaccine as soon as possible,” President Obama said January 9 in his official proclamation of the vaccination effort.

“This week,” he said, “presents a window of opportunity for us to prevent a possible third wave of H1N1 flu in the United States.”

## PANDEMIC WAVES

Multiple waves of illness characterized all three flu pandemics that struck in the 20th century — an H1N1 strain in 1918–1919, an H2N2 strain in 1957–1963, and an H3N2 strain in 1968–1970.

According to Dr. Mark Miller of the U.S. National Institutes of Health’s Fogarty International Center and colleagues in a study published June 18 in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, the 1918 pandemic had a mild first wave during the summer followed by two severe waves in the winter. The 1957 pandemic had three winter waves during the first five years, and the 1968 pandemic had a mild first wave in Britain followed by a severe second wave in the winter.

For the 2009 H1N1 pandemic, declared by WHO on June 11, many countries in

and Prevention (CDC) showed a chart of two waves of flu deaths from the 1957 pandemic. After the first wave, she said, when the flu appeared to stop spreading, people stopped getting vaccinated and the death toll rose again with subsequent waves of infections. National Influenza Vaccination Week is an attempt to spread the word.

“I am concerned that people may be complacent,” Schuchat said, “that people may think this is all over. I would hate for people to make decisions thinking this is over and then get sick or severely ill. We

have the chance for people to protect themselves [by being vaccinated] and reduce the risk of serious complications.”

## H1N1 WORLDWIDE

In the Americas, flu activity declined or remained low. In Europe, pandemic flu transmission is geographically widespread, and intense virus circulation continues in several countries of central, eastern and southeastern Europe ? particularly in Poland, Serbia, Ukraine, Georgia ? where intense respira-

tory disease activity was recently reported, according to WHO.

In North Africa and West Asia, limited data suggest that flu transmission is active. West Asia may have had a peak in flu activity but parts of North Africa report increasing respiratory disease activity, particularly Egypt.

In South Asia, flu transmission is widespread and active across the subcontinent, particularly in northern India, Nepal and Sri Lanka.

In Southeast Asia, flu transmission is re-

*(Continued on page 17)*



the Northern Hemisphere, where the virus strain first arose, have experienced two waves of illness and currently have declining numbers of cases. Some countries with tropical climates and temperate parts of the Southern Hemisphere, where the virus arrived later in the year, may still face a second wave.

Scientists cannot predict whether nations in either hemisphere will face more waves of H1N1 infection, but they are urging as many people as possible to be vaccinated against the possibility.

At a January 7 briefing, Dr. Anne Schuchat of the Centers for Disease Control



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Telling America's story

**Officials Urge Vaccination Against Possible . . .**

*(Continued from page 16)*

gional to widespread; overall flu activity seems low but variable. In late December, Indonesia announced that it had 20 human cases of the highly pathogenic H5N1 avian flu so far in 2009 and 19 of them were fatal. H5N1 is not easily transmissible among people but it is much more deadly. In countries where H5N1 is endemic and H1N1 is circulating, some scientists worry that the strains could "reassort," or trade genes, creating a new strain with unpredictable characteristics.

In East Asia, flu transmission is widespread and active but seems to be declining. In central Asia there is evidence of declining rates of flu-like infections since respiratory disease activity peaked in late November in Uzbekistan and early December in Kyrgyzstan. In temperate regions of the Southern Hemisphere, sporadic cases of pandemic flu were reported but there was no evidence of sustained community transmission.

"I think that it is too premature and too early for us to say we have come to an

end of the pandemic influenza worldwide," WHO's director-general, Dr. Margaret Chan, said in a December 30 podcast. "It would be prudent and appropriate for WHO, together with our member states, to continue to monitor the evolution of this pandemic for the next six to 12 months."

To help countries protect people from developing severe disease from H1N1 infection, WHO is coordinating the distribution of donated pandemic vaccine to 95 countries. It has received pledges of nearly 190 million doses of vaccine, 75 million syringes and \$70 million for vaccine distribution.

More information about pandemic flu is available on special Web pages at America.gov ( [http://www.america.gov/h1n1\\_flu.html](http://www.america.gov/h1n1_flu.html) ), CDC ( <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/> ) and WHO ( <http://www.who.int/csr/disease/swineflu/en/index.html> ).

Want to share your thoughts about pandemic flu? Use the comment box below.



**Story of 27th Amendment Shows Individual's Power in a Democracy. . .**

*(Continued from page 14)*

states. He began his advocacy efforts in states where both of the bodies of the state legislature were controlled by one political party. In 1983, he convinced the state of Maine to ratify the amendment, and he won ratification in Colorado the following year.

Watson's campaign soon attracted a few famous names, including Paul Gann, a California-based conservative political activist; Ralph Nader, the Green Party presidential candidate; and a few members of Congress. Their support had little effect, but Watson persevered, working several jobs to fund his efforts and using his limited spare time to call and write to state legislators.

From 1985 to 1988, Watson helped win ratification by 18 more states, and came close to meeting his goal of completing the ratification process by the 200th

anniversary of the amendment's original passage by Congress.

Seven states ratified the amendment in 1989, two more in 1990, and one more in 1991. By the spring of 1992 several states were racing to become the 38th state and make it the law of the land. On May 5, 1992, Missouri and Alabama both ratified the amendment, followed by Michigan and New Jersey on May 7 and Illinois on May 12.

On May 18, 1992, the archivist of the United States, Don W. Wilson, announced the 27th Amendment had been ratified. On May 20, 1992, the Senate voted 99 to 0 to accept the ratification of the 27th Amendment, and the House of Representatives voted its acceptance 414 to 3.

In some ways, it is fair to say that Watson himself amended the Constitution. He was a concerned citizen who sin-

cerely believed this amendment would improve the Constitution in just the manner that the 1st Congress had sought.

"The American people want a Congress that is honest, that has integrity. This amendment is one vehicle by which some degree of decorum can be restored," Watson was quoted as saying in a New York Times article on May 8, 1992.

After the amendment was ratified, a reporter tracked down the professor who graded Watson's paper and told her what Watson had achieved. The teacher apologized for giving him a "C," but told him the grade could not be amended.

For more information, see the America.gov feature on the U.S. Constitution ( <http://www.america.gov/constitution.html> ). ◆